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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF JULIAN TOKARSKI ON THE TASKS OF POLAND'S ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

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[The following report of Julian Tokarski, Minister of the Engineering Industry, was given at the Ninth Plenum of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party), held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.

The report was given at the plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44]

Comrade Bierut's speech and the theses submitted at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the PZPR summarized the great work of the party and the working masses of the nation in the first 4 years of the Six-Year Plan, and outlined the tasks for 1954 and 1955.

The theses contain the statement that the engineering industry has shown the most rapid development, and that its production is now 2.5 times as great as in 1949.

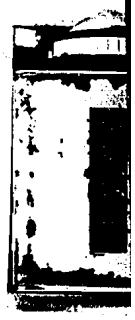
The rapid tempo of industrialization in Poland is especially marked in the development of socialist industry in Warsaw. In following party directives and in fulfilling the Six-Year Plan, we are transforming Warsaw into a great industrial center. The engineering industry has a great share in this transformation. The 1953 production of the machine industry in Warsaw was 510 percent of 1949, and employment was 332 percent of 1949.

In 1953, while over-all production of the engineering industry increased to almost 2.5 times that of 1949, production of the Warsaw factories increased more than 5 times that of 1949.

In the first 4 years of the Six-Year Plan, the plants of the machine industry built and mastered production of 100 new types of machines and apparatus each year. The following new branches of industry were formed during that period: optical industry, antifriction bearings industry, shipbuilding industry, and a number of defense industries which use unusually complicated modern techniques. The engineering industry began producing a number of machines not previously manufactured in Poland: presses, hammers, steam machines, synthetic textile machines, heavy machine tools, heavy electrical machinery, and a number of radio and telecommunication sets. Production was also started on a number of types of measuring equipment, especially equipment for automatic boiler control.

However, these successes conceal significant shortcomings of the engineering industry. Though the engineering industry exceeded its over-all plan, it did not fulfill the stipulations of the Six-Year Plan with regard to production of basic assortments of producers goods, especially in the production of turbines and boilers. Also, it did not fulfill the quantitative plan in machine tool production.

Production of agricultural machinery and equipment and construction machinery is also lagging significantly. The repeated failure to fulfill production plans for turbines and boilers hampers the development of the power industry. The power industry is indispensable to the development of industry, agriculture, and the improvement of living conditions of the working masses in the city and the village.



We have made certain advances in the production of machine tools. In 1953, we mastered production of 19 new types of machine tools and expect to master several score more in 1954. However, the quality of machine tools is unsatisfactory.

The scope and the tempo of our industrial and residential construction requires many construction machines and much equipment. There is a great lag in production in this sector for which we can find no justification.

Neither agricultural machines nor basic commodities are included in the above-mentioned successes of the machine industry, a fact which speaks for itself.

Up to now, we have not mastered production of a basic assortment of machines either for cultivating grains or for industrial crops. We are forced to admit that the lag in the development of the agricultural machine industry is mainly due to our neglect, as exemplified in the number of workers employed and the number of factory installations. More than 60 percent of the operations in this industry are still performed manually.

One of the many reasons for this state of affairs is procrastination in establishing agricultural terminology, and in approving models of agricultural machines and equipment. The ministry has shown a lack of initiative in assuring production of agricultural machines and equipment necessary for grain cultivation, and especially industrial crops such as potatoes, sugar beets, etc.

We have had no positive success in the production of basic commodities, with the exception of telecommunications equipment. Our motorcycle and bicycle production is very costly and not large enough. We are not producing any modern metal or electrical household appliances such as sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, polishing machines, washing machines, refrigerators, etc.

There are further possibilities of increasing the production of basic commodities already in production. Among the reasons for the inadequate development in the production of basic commodities are inadequate allocations of material and the lack of interest in the ministry in utilizing waste materials.

Machines, equipment, transport equipment (highway and rail), and basic commodities such as radio receivers, bicycles, motorcycles, and light bulbs, produced by the engineering industry, are not always of acceptable quality.

One of our most important tasks is to improve the quality of machines and equipment and basic commodities produced by the engineering industry. The quality of equipment has a direct effect on the increase and improvement of industrial and agricultural production.

In the first 4 years of the Six-Year Plan we did not achieve reduction of internal costs, which are very high in the engineering industry. The 1953 plan provided for a reduction of 8.5 percent but the reduction achieved was only 4.9 percent.

Production costs consist of three elements: cost of materials, labor costs, and factory overhead costs. In no type of production has the engineering industry achieved the norms set in the USSR in any of these three elements.

None of the planned indexes for lowering costs have been achieved. The high costs, however, are primarily due to waste of materials and large overhead costs. Production costs of the "Star" motorcar, for instance, have been reduced by 10,000 zlotys, of which only 3,000 was a savings in material.

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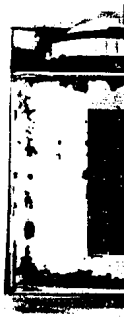

Even when a reduction in costs of materials and labor occurred in the production of items such as locomotives, ships, and machine tools, they usually showed an increase in overhead costs. One factor in the large overhead costs is overstaffing of offices in our factories.

Of actively employed engineers and technicians only a small percentage are employed directly in production. Only 4,300 of the 6,300 engineers employed by the Ministry of the Engineering Industry are employed in factories. Only 15,400 of the 20,800 technicians working under the ministry, are employed in the factories.

Our scientific research institutes are isolated from the scientific and technical problems of the industry. Many factories are using obsolete production technology.

Work productivity is relatively low. A basic reform of norms and wages has been introduced in the engineering industry this year. To date, the results have been generally positive. Since the introduction of the reform, labor productivity has increased on the average of more than 2 percent a month.

Labor productivity remains the main problem in the struggle to achieve production plans and to increase the workers' earnings. Although increased productivity is governed by technical advances and application of modern technology, we must not underestimate such factors as workers' initiative and qualifications, proper management, and the work of party and union organizations.

Although work discipline has been greatly increased, we cannot say that it is satisfactory.

Another important problem is work competition. These matters are handled in a perfunctory manner. Initiators of new work methods are being neglected. Their achievements are not widely publicized and their living and cultural conditions receive little attention.

The Ministry of the Engineering Industry must change its methods and increase its efforts to assure the achievement of the great tasks outlined by Comrade Bierut and embraced in the guiding principles of the ninth plenum.

The theses submitted at the plenum confirm the necessity for a further development of the engineering industry as the basis for the expansion and technical reconstruction of all branches of the national economy, and for a further increase in work productivity. The main task of the engineering industry is still production of producers goods: boilers, turbines, machine tools, chemical apparatus and equipment, etc.

In carrying out the guiding principles, the engineering industry should give special attention to the development of production of machines for the light industry, food processing industry, and residential construction. Also it should increase agricultural machine production. Increased production of producers goods will greatly increase production of basic commodities and enlarge their assortment.

The plants of engineering industry have expanded and have developed into large concentrations of the means of production. Some plants employ thousands of workers.

The party organizations must work with the administrative staff of these factories to raise the qualifications and political level of the supervisory staffs, particularly the director

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